

NAPOLEON DYNAMITE Film Screening & Q&A

WITH

Jon Heder, Efen Ramirez & Jon Gries



Sunday, January 26

Sponsored by Mike & Leslie Foley

About the Film

In small-town Preston, Idaho, awkward teen Napoleon Dynamite has trouble fitting in. After his grandmother is injured in an accident, his life is made even worse when his strangely nostalgic uncle, Rico, shows up to keep an eye on him. With no safe haven at home or at school, Napoleon befriends the new kid, Pedro, a morose Hispanic boy who speaks little English. Together the two launch a campaign to run for class president.

Jon Heder

With his first-ever feature role as the gaping über-nerd "Napoleon Dynamite" (2004), actor Jon Heder became a cult hero overnight. The film did more than just propel the young actor into celebrity; it also galvanized an entire generation of nerds, geeks and dweebs who could relate to being shoved into lockers, playing lonely games of tetherball and their pocketful of Tater-Tots being smashed by class bullies. The rabid fandom that arose from "Napoleon Dynamite" turned weird, however, when accounts of Heder's death began circulating the Internet, complete with fictitious quotes from his bereaved mom. Though most actors would have cringed at such notoriety, Heder took it all in stride, continuing to land plum comedic roles in such films as "The Benchwarmers" (2005), "School for Scoundrels" (2006) and "Blades of Glory" (2007). The latter was a box office hit and solidified his status as a rising comedic talent. After playing one of Kristen Bell's suitors in the underwhelming romantic comedy "When in Rome" (2010), Heder returned to the role that made him famous with the animated series "Napoleon Dynamite" (Fox, 2012), which featured most of the main players from the original cast and promised Heder continued success. (From Rotten Tomatoes)

Efen Ramirez

Efen Ramirez has been working as a professional actor for many years. Initially, his career consisted of guest star appearances on television, as he appeared in diverse roles on "E.R.", "AMERICAN DAD", "JUDGING AMY", "THE DISTRICT", "MAD TV", and "SCRUBS."

However, it was his memorable portrayal of "PEDRO" in the feature film "NAPOLEON DYNAMITE" that dramatically launched what has become a hugely prolific acting career with an unusually diverse series of performances in Film, Television, Drama, Comedy...every imaginable medium and genre.

In the years since that film was released, Efen Ramirez has appeared in scores of films and television shows, including leading roles in the HBO film "WALKOUT"; with Edward James Olmos, "EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH"; opposite Dane Cook and Dax Shepard, "CRANK" and CRANK HIGH VOLTAGE; opposite Jason Statham, (playing his own twin brother in the sequel.) He also appeared in "GAMER" with Gerard Butler, "WHEN IN ROME" with Kristen Bell, "CROSSING THE HEART" opposite Kris Kristofferson, "HOUSE OF MY FATHER" opposite Will Ferrell, and HBO's EASTBOUND AND DOWN" with Danny McBride.

Most recently, you can expect to see him in FOX's Television hit "THE GRINDER" with Rob Lowe and the animated series "BORDERTOWN" with Hank Azaria and Alex Bernstein, HULU's "DEADBEAT" with Tyler Labine, and the film "MIDDLESCHOOL: THE WORST YEARS OF MY LIFE" based on the James Patterson best seller.

Efen Ramirez currently resides in Los Angeles and New York. When he isn't filming, he is spinning records as a guest D.J. in clubs all across the country. He has published his first book DIRECT YOUR OWN LIFE. Efen recently returned from a USO TOUR visiting our troops in Bahrain, UAE, Dubai, and Africa. He frequently speaks to students at high schools and universities and is very involved with charitable organizations. (From IMDB)

Jon Gries

"Wolfman's got nards!" This line from the campy horror flick "The Monster Squad" (1987), directed at Jon Gries' vicious but vulnerable werewolf, neatly sums up the veteran character actor's career: tough characters with soft hearts. His father, director Tom Gries, cast him in his movies such as "Will Penny" (1968) and the made-for-TV "Helter Skelter" (CBS, 1976), but the young actor quickly struck out on his own, appearing in cult '80s movies such as "Real Genius" (1985). By the 1990s he'd moved over to TV, landing memorable roles on "Beverly Hills, 90210" (Fox, 1990-2000); "Martin" (Fox, 1992-97); and "The Pretender" (NBC, 1996-2000). After appearing in "Get Shorty" (1995), Gries landed a breakout role as Uncle Rico in the surprise hit "Napoleon Dynamite" (2004) and joined the sprawling cast of "Lost" (ABC, 2004-2010). A self-professed late bloomer, Gries directed his first film, "Pickin' & Grinnin'," in 2010, before landing his first voice acting role on the animated "Napoleon Dynamite" (Fox, 2012). Though he may not have followed in his father's Emmy-winning footsteps, Jon Gries has made some distinct impressions of his own. (from Rotten Tomatoes)

